

Community Appearance Commission

Minutes

June 1, 2005

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Judy Kandl, Barbara Lawther, Michael Lippard, Chad Morgan, Barbara Perry, and Bill Safrit

Absent: Cindee Bridges, Suzette Davis, Sara Robinson, and Johnny Safrit

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. Jim McNally of the Salisbury Post was present. The minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved as written. The financial report was accepted.

New member, Barbara Lawther, was introduced to the Commission.

Unfortunately, staff was unable to present the visuals that had been prepared for today's meeting due to an electrical problem at the computer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

HAT (History and Art Trail). Barbara Perry gave background on the project to bring new members up-to-date. This is a diverse 16-member committee; three representatives are from the CAC. There are two subcommittees that meet regularly – Marker System Committee and a History Committee. The markers will be 24" x 32".

There are plans to have a luncheon in the fall for members of the foundations to hear a presentation about an important art installation at the Gateway Bridge. The Request for Qualifications (RFQs) will go out before this luncheon. A presentation for the public is being prepared by staff.

Barbara Perry requested a replacement for Bruce Wilson, who served on the HAT Committee as a CAC representative. Meetings are once a month on the second Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Plaza. Barbara Lawther will serve on the HAT Committee as well as Art in Public Places.

Mosaic. Mr. Robert Crum is progressing on the Depot Street Mosaic. Half of the necessary funds have been raised. He was able to show the Robertson Foundation his progress for their meeting last week.

Poets and Dreamers Garden. Barbara Perry, Chad Morgan, Sara Robinson, Lynn Raker, and Diana Moghrabi met with Dr. Gallaway at Livingstone College to experience the Poets and Dreamers Garden. Dr. Hunter greeted the group prior to our walk.

A summary of the visit was distributed to the members of the commission. The first priority will be to locate a plan that Johnny Safrit said had been previously submitted. The CAC can make recommendations of what kinds of plants will survive the clay soil and the heat. No work could actually begin until fall.

Railroad Bridge. A contract has been awarded for the bridge landscaping. The light poles will be installed June 6 and the landscaping will follow immediately. Plants include shade trees in the rights of way on either side behind the sidewalks and spaced about 40 feet apart. These trees are a hybrid form of Red Maple that will turn a brilliant red for a splash of color in the fall. The trees will be under-planted with a couple of layers of shrubs and herbaceous plants with a concentration of colors and textures.

In the median Crape Myrtles will be used; they will be easy to move for an art installation if necessary. Various colors of shrubs will be repeated. The four corners at the end of the bridge will have very consistent conical evergreen hollies that are handsome “specimens” to anchor the bridge.

Downtown Holiday Decorations. The CAC will be contributing ideas for Christmas decorations at the Railroad Bridge (a.k.a. – The Gateway Bridge). Barbara reminded members of the Commission to keep their calendars open at Thanksgiving to decorate. Bill Safrit suggested that CAC could look into solar powered batteries for the planters at the square.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- Greta Connor has been contacted by members of the community about their concerns. Barbara Perry has received requests for this committee to address cars parking on front lawns. A meeting has been scheduled for June 28 at 4 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall.
- Jersey City will see work begin right away on the first phase of the sidewalk project. The first phase includes the east side of Caldwell, south side of Kerr St., and possibly two blocks of the north side of Kerr Street. The second phase will be one side of Craige and hopefully two sides of Cemetery Street.

Landscaping

- *Yard of the Month.* Cindee Bridges announced that The Eye Associates of Rowan, located at 800 West Cemetery Street, is the commercial landscape of the month winner for June. She was not able to contact Power Curbers for May and hopes to nominate them at a later date.

Cindee will contact the Masons on Confederate Avenue to ask them to accept the June residential Yard of the Month. The commission accepted Cindee's report and agreed to the nominations.

Barbara Lawther will serve on the Landscaping Committee.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

- There is \$800 remaining after subtracting the Hardee's grant. Some of this will be applied to a slight overage on the Railroad Bridge expenses for landscaping.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Judy Kandl reported on the committee that Council had created to review the sign ordinance. Michael Lippard also attended this committee meeting as a CAC representative. Preston Mitchell asked the committee to review two separate requests from two individuals that have noncompliant projects. Mark Lewis acted as the committee chair.

The sign ordinance, as it is, has been in existence for about two years. The ordinance is generally working well with some repeated problems and violators.

The first of the projects was KKA - Karen Alexander's Tractor Building on Depot Street. The challenge on this building is that the current code must be rewritten to allow the proposed sign. A variance would not be an option because there would be a lot of appeals "coming down the pike."

The second is an issue with banners on Michael and Diane Young's building on East Innes Street. It is difficult to put identifying signs on many downtown businesses. Historic Preservation loved the Youngs' sign even though it was not in compliance, and HPC knew that. This type of sign is currently banned; they would be mounted on the second floor. The primary issue concerning banners is the life expectancy, which is five to seven years, and they do require maintenance.

- Size-wise they do comply.
- Banners are more affordable.

City Council wants to be business friendly; therefore, some tweaking of the sign ordinance may be necessary. Staff will probably draft a sample text amendment. There will be a follow-up meeting with feedback from the boards and commissions represented. It is important to consider what types of mechanisms will instigate a change; otherwise, the sign ordinance will constantly be rewritten.

The more beautiful place that is not full of “floating dinosaurs” is bound to be more business friendly by being more attractive.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee assignments were reviewed. Everyone will be involved in some way with the awards banquet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Greta asked about the progress of the Ellis Street Bridge. Lynn said that the State is working on the plans. There is a renewed interest in the Bridge and Lynn has seen some preliminary proposals.

Barbara Perry received complaints about Goodyear posting signs over the weekend near the bridge. A second person complained about the clutter of newspaper boxes at The Square.

The planters at The Square look nice pulled up closer to the road.

The Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial project will be started this month. There will be a ceremony Sunday, June 19 from 3-5 p.m. This will be a 90-day project.

There will be no Community Appearance Commission meeting in July.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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